

Representative **Murrell Smith** proposes the following amendment:

**Department of Health and Environmental Control - DHEC**

Amend:

**34.48.**(DHEC: Birthing Center Inspections) For this fiscal year, ~~birthing~~ all licensed birth centers, ~~accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Birth Centers,~~ must register an on-call agreement and any transfer policies with the Department of Health and Environmental Control. The on-call agreement shall contain provisions which provide that the on-call physician, or his/her designee is readily available to provide medical assistance either in person or by telecommunications or other electronic means, which means the physician must be within a thirty minute drive of the birthing center or hospital, must be licensed in the State of South Carolina, have hospital admitting privileges and shall provide consultation and advice to the ~~birthing~~ birth center at all times it is serving the public. Furthermore, a birthing center shall document in its practice guidelines and policies the ability to transfer care to an acute care hospital with obstetrical and newborn services and must demonstrate this by: (A) coordinated transfer care plans, protocols, procedures, arrangements, or through collaboration with one or more acute care hospitals with appropriate obstetrical and newborn services; and (B) admitting privileges at one or more hospitals with appropriate obstetrical and newborn services by a ~~birthing~~ birth center's consulting physician. The department shall require a \$25.00 registration fee upon receipt and review of the agreements containing these provisions. ~~Birthing~~ Birth centers registering on-call and transfer policies in accordance with this proviso shall be deemed by the department to be in compliance with Section 44-89-60(3) of the South Carolina Code and any implementing regulations for this fiscal year.